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# U.S. Sets New Interrogation of Member of Spy Ring

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 23 — The Justice Department has scheduled a new interrogation of Arthur J. Walker, convicted of spying for the Soviet Union, after reports that his brother lied about the family's espionage ring, according to Reagan Administration officials.

The officials said that information from Arthur Walker would be compared with statements from his brother, John A. Walker Jr., a former Navy warrant officer who has described himself as the leader of the Soviet espionage operation.

Recent polygraph, or lie-detector, examinations indicated John Walker was lying about the extent of the spy ring and its origins, Justice Department officials have said.

## Interview Called Important

Administration officials said the decision to interview Arthur Walker again was important, noting that they were moving quickly to try to verify or disprove John Walker's account that he started the spy ring and that it consisted of himself, his brother Arthur, his son Michael and Jerry A. Whitworth, his friend, all of whom served in the Navy.

The espionage operation, which provided the Soviet Union with top-secret information about naval communications, has been described by the Government as one of the most damaging in American history.

A Federal district judge in Baltimore, where the case against the Walkers has been prosecuted, recently agreed to delay the sentencing of John Walker until Oct. 3. The United States Attorney for Baltimore, Breckinridge L. Willcox, confirmed that prosecutors might soon ask the judge for another delay in sentencing John Walker and his son. Both had pleaded guilty to espionage.

"If the request is made, it will be made this week," Mr. Willcox said in

an interview. "Further time may be needed to assess all of the respects of the Walker operations." Mr. Willcox would not elaborate.

Federal officials said the new interrogation of Arthur Walker would center on allegations that he actually began his espionage activities while in the Navy. He was a lieutenant commander when he retired.

Arthur Walker, who was convicted last year of stealing classified documents from a military contractor for whom he worked after his retirement, has denied any previous espionage. But officials said that polygraph examinations have determined that he, as well as his brother, was deceptive when questioned about when the spying began.

When Arthur Walker was in the Navy, he had access to secret documents about the American submarine force. At one point in his military career, Mr. Walker taught submarine warfare tactics.

John Walker's former wife, Barbara, has said that Arthur Walker told her in the late 1960's that he had spied while in the Navy.

Officials said they also believe that Arthur Walker, and not his brother John, may have created the spy ring.

Another source knowledgeable about the case said he believed investigators would also press Arthur Walker to reveal if there were still members of the spy ring who have not been identified or charged.

The Justice Department is particularly interested in the identity of someone who was given the code name "A" in John Walker's papers, the source said. The individual has not been identified, Administration officials said.

Fred Warren Bennett, John Walker's chief defense lawyer, said that he understood that Arthur Walker would be questioned about "his role, if any, prior to 1980" in the espionage operation.

Officials said that Arthur Walker is to be transported to Baltimore from an undisclosed Federal penitentiary. He was sentenced to a life term.

Reports of renewed interrogations of Arthur Walker came shortly after it was disclosed that Mr. Whitworth had undergone polygraph examinations in California in recent days. A Federal official knowledgeable about the case said Mr. Whitworth's statements would also be compared to John Walker's.

Mr. Whitworth, a retired Navy communications specialist, was convicted of espionage earlier this summer and sentenced to 365 years in prison.